

Using Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Program Properties as Summer Food Service Sites

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The Problem: How do we reach children in rural areas who need food assistance when school is out for the summer?



Rural Area Challenges

- Typically children are disbursed to their homes during the school summer break.
- Scattered children require transportation to and from Summer Food Service sites
- Large rural areas and low population density compound transportation issues

USDA Section 515 Program



- MFH Program designed to provide affordable rental housing in eligible rural areas.
- MFH Program targets low (80% AMI) and very low (50% AMI) income households.
- Mostly same families eligible for School Lunch

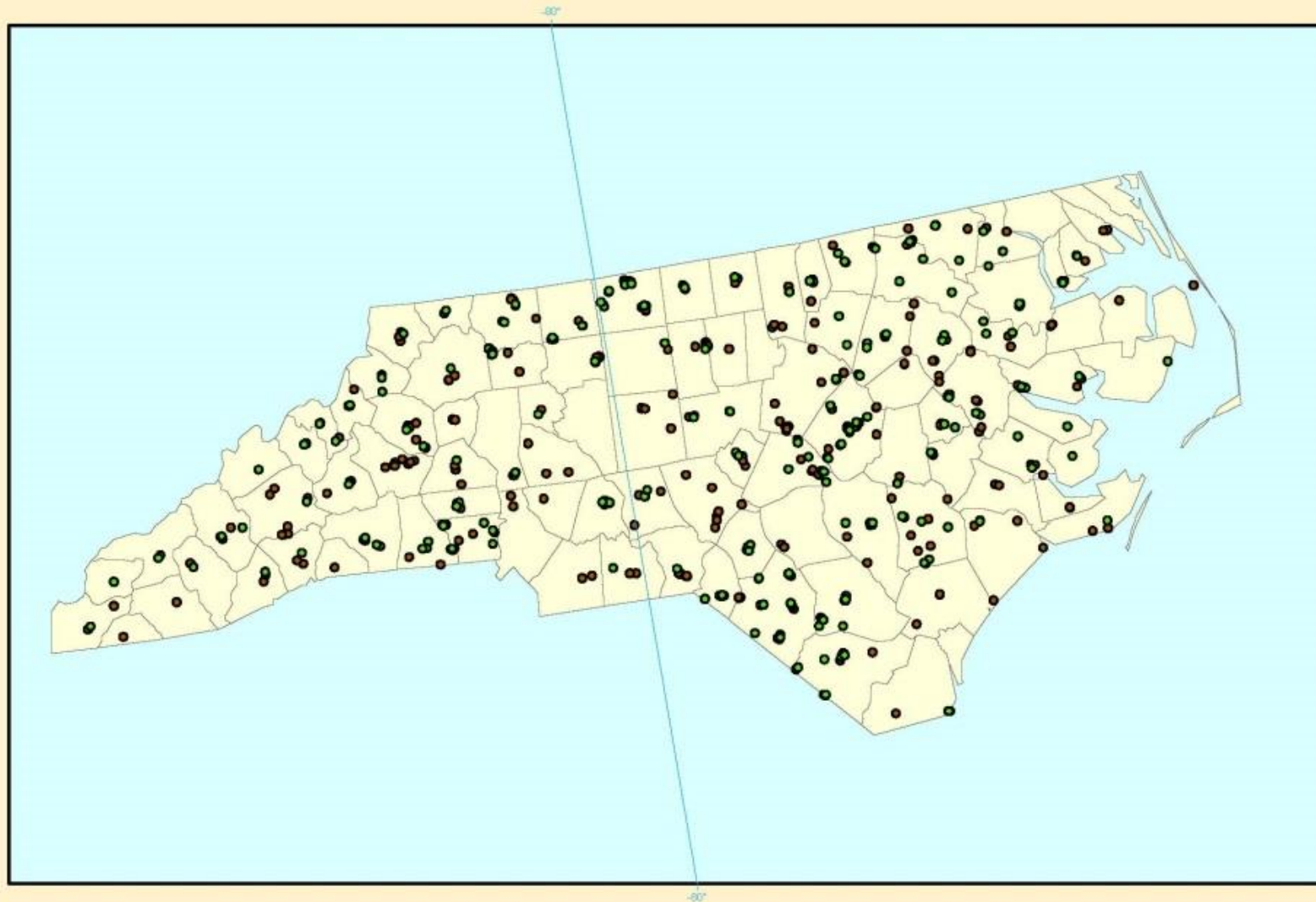
Basic Facts: 515 Portfolio

- Nationally: 16,500 properties with 458,090 units
- Average size is 28 units
- North Carolina: 598 properties with 16,000 units.

Where are the Properties?

Multi Family Housing Property Locations





Committed to the future



MFH 515 Properties in North Carolina

Legend

- MFH 515 Housing for the Elderly
- MFH 515 Housing for Families

Solution: Take the Food to the Children

- Out of a StrikeForce meeting came a new idea to serve children in the 515 properties where they live
- FNS introduced RD to state partners who administer the Summer Food Service
- RD works state partners to identify MFH properties and sponsors that would be willing to serve as sites

Success Takeaways

- Finding food sponsor is easy
- Plan on meals 5 days per week; Lunch only, unless . . . super attractive breakfast activity to bring everyone at the same time.
- Properties with community rooms best candidates

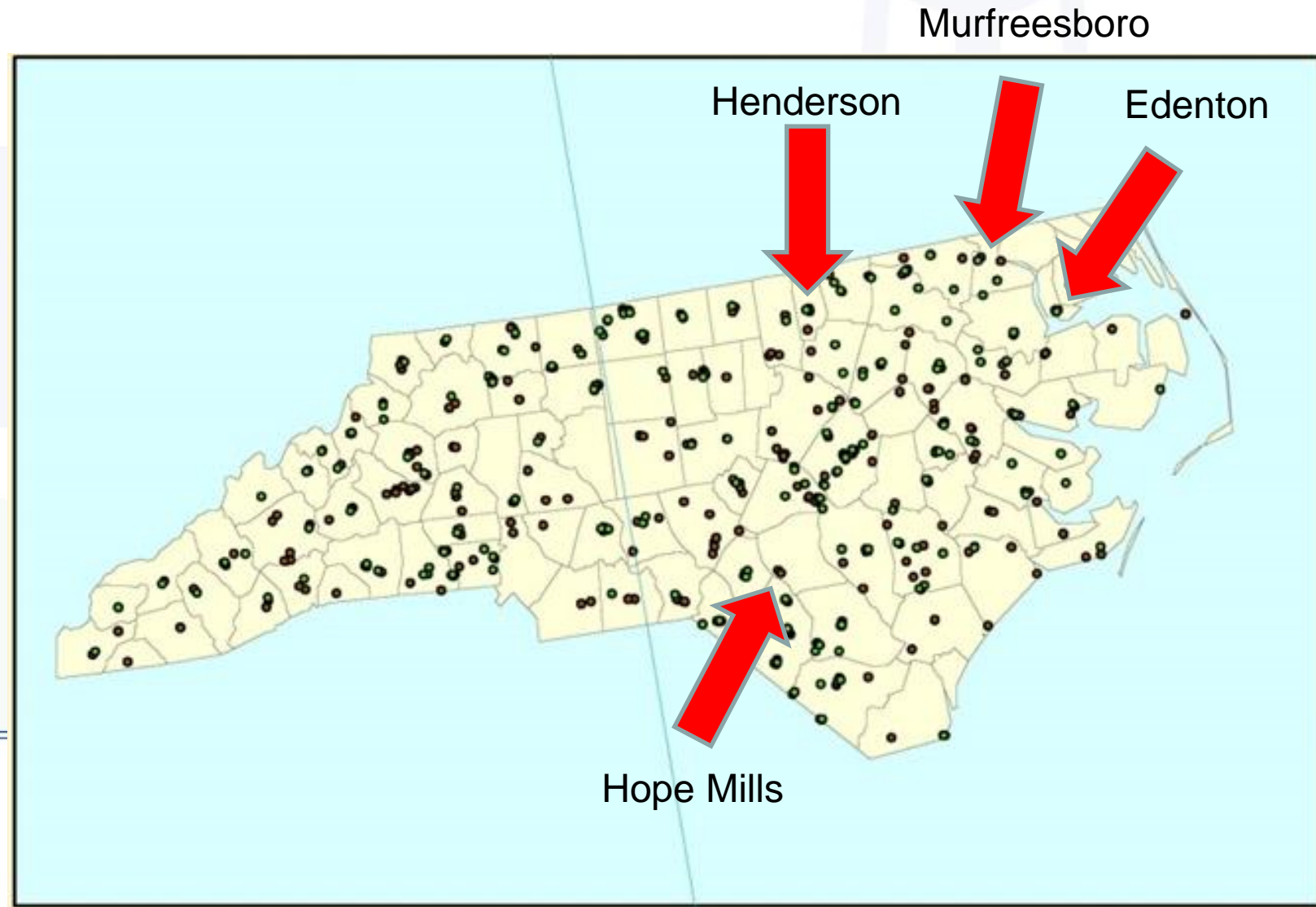
Success Takeaways (cont.)

A dedicated Site Supervisor who is not the real estate Site Manager is critical.

Summer Food Service Efforts at NC 515 Properties

- Summer of 2015 – 7 USDA 515 properties
- In 4 counties, 3 StrikeForce counties

NC SFS Sites in 2015



NC Success Highlight

- Congregations 4 Children, a project of the Western NC Conference of the UMC
- Developing a service model that can be adopted by any church. Expanding eastward.
- Contact: Caroline Wood

cwood@unccumc.org

704-535-2260 x117



NC Success Highlight

- St. James Missionary Baptist Church,
<http://saintjamesmbcnc.org/>
- Contact: Rev. William H. Clayton
Church Office: (252) 492-8500
- Coordinated the efforts of 6 other churches to deliver a mobile SFS to 9 sites including 3 USDA apartments



NC Success Highlight

- Helping Other People Endure
Fayetteville, NC
- Operated 31 SFS sites in summer of 2015 including USDA
apartments in Hope Mills



Takeaways from NC SFS Efforts

- When there is energetic leadership, SFS can be a success at USDA 515 properties
- There are still challenges
 - Properties without community rooms
 - Finding more willing Site Supervisors

RD MFH Property Locator

RD Multi-Family Housing Rental locator:

http://rdmfhrentals.sc.egov.usda.gov/RDMFHRentals/select_state.jsp

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Rentals

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Multi-Family Housing Rentals

Select a state on the map below to locate properties for rent. [Text Version](#)

Search by

- ▶ Town
- ▶ Zip Code
- ▶ Property Name
- ▶ Management Agency Name

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Let's work together to expand Summer Food Service to the children who call RD MFH home!



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